



Bureau of Land Management 46525 Hwy 114 • Saguache, Colorado 81149

## BLM SAN LUIS VALLEY NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Dec. 7, 2015

Contact: Kyle Sullivan, Public Affairs Specialist, 719-269-8553

### **BLM plans prescribed burn at Blanca Wetlands**

**MONTE VISTA, Colo.** – The San Luis Valley Field Office in conjunction with the Interagency Fire Management Unit will conduct prescribed burns at Blanca Wetlands this winter. Depending on weather and fuel moisture conditions, the prescribed burn could begin in early December. Approximately 120 acres of BLM land will be treated to improve waterfowl habitat.

Smoke from the prescribed burn will be visible throughout the day of the burn, mostly during the warmest part of the day. With cooler temperatures in the evening, smoke may linger and accumulate in low lying areas.

According to the Colorado Air Quality Division, “prescribed fire smoke may affect your health. For more information see <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific.cdphe/wood-smoke-and-health>.”

With more than 200 ponds, marshes and playas, Blanca Wetlands Recreation Area provides excellent habitat for large numbers of waterfowl. A complex trail system winds through the area, creating a wonderful wildlife viewing experience for visitors. In addition, a waterfowl-viewing boardwalk offers exceptional bird watching opportunities.

For additional information, contact Paul Minow (719) 852-7074 at the BLM San Luis Valley Field Office in Monte Visa.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to manage and conserve the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations under our mandate of multiple-use and sustained yield. In Fiscal Year 2014, the BLM generated \$5.2 billion in receipts from public lands.

###